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Mexico Issues Notice on NOM-051 Labeling Revisions

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

This report summarizes a notice from the Ministry of Economy (SE) published in the Diario Oficial de la Federacion on December 13, 2010. The notice explains that the implementation date of the revised NOM-051 labeling regulations will be extended for a select group of products that are currently subject to labeling provisions in other Mexican Official Standards (NOMs).

General Information:

Disclaimer: This report was prepared by the Agricultural Trade Office of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Monterrey, Mexico for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. Final import approval of any product is subject to the importing country's rules and regulations as interpreted by border officials at the time of product entry.

BACKGROUND/REFERENCE

On April 5, 2010, the Ministry of Economy (Spanish: [*Secretaría de Economía*](#), or SE) published the new version of its main food and beverage labeling regulation: the Mexican Official Standard for General Labeling Specifications of Pre-Packaged Foods and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (Spanish: [*NOM-051 - Especificaciones generales de etiquetado para alimentos y bebidas no alcohólicas preenvasados*](#) [1] , commonly known as NOM-051) which will become effective on January 1, 2011.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Title: “Notice of extension for verification and surveillance on the enforcement of Mexican Official Standard NOM-051-SCFI/SSAI-2010 – General labeling specifications for pre-packaged food products and non-alcoholic beverages – Commercial and sanitary information, regarding specific Mexican Official Standards issued by the Ministry of Economy”. (Spanish: [*Aviso de prórroga, para fines de verificación y vigilancia, de la aplicación de la Norma Oficial Mexicana NOM-051-SCFI/SSAI-2010, Especificaciones generales de etiquetado para alimentos y bebidas no alcohólicas preenvasados-Información comercial y sanitaria, respecto de normas oficiales mexicanas específicas de producto expedidas por la Secretaría de Economía.*](#))

Type of Ruling: Notification of extension.

Important Dates:

1. Notice Publication Date: December 13, 2010.
2. NOM-051 Enforcement Date for all pre-packaged foods and non-alcoholic beverages: January 1, 2011.
3. Extension Date granted to specific products: June 1, 2011.

Products Affected: Pre-packaged tuna and similar species (of the *Sarda*, *Euthynnus* and *Katsuwonus* genus) and their products, vanilla, honey, coffee (produced in the states of Veracruz and Chiapas), milk, including milk formulations and products containing dairy ingredients, hams and pre-packaged fruit juices.

Agency in Charge: Ministry of Economy (SE).

FAS/Mexico Summary: On November 16, 2010, SE submitted a proposal to the Federal Commission for Regulatory

Improvement (Spanish: [Comisión Federal de Mejora Regulatoria](#), or COFEMER) to clarify implementation of the new labeling regulations on products which are currently subject to labeling provisions in other Mexican NOMs. The proposal was published in the *Diario Oficial de la Federación* (Federal Register) on December 13, 2011, and extends implementation of the new NOM-051 labeling regulations on products covered by other NOMs until June 1, 2011. Products subject to this announcement along with the corresponding NOMs are listed as follows:

Table 1 – List of NOMs that include labeling regulations of specific products.

NOM-084-SCFI-1994	Commercial information – Specifications of commercial and sanitary information for pre-packaged tuna and Atlantic bonito, and their products. (Published September 22, 1995)
NOM-139-SCFI-1999	Commercial information – Labeling of <i>Vanilla spp.</i> Derivates and substitutes. (Published March 22, 2000)
NOM-145-SCFI-2001	Commercial information – Labeling of honey in different presentations. (Published April 23, 2001)
NOM-149-SCFI-2001	Veracruz coffee – Specifications and test methods. (Published January 7, 2002)
NOM-155-SCFI-2003	Milk, milk formulations and dairy combined products - Specific denominations, commercial information and test methods. (Published September 12, 2003)
NOM-158-SCFI-2003	Hams – Denomination and commercial classification, physicochemical, organoleptic and microbiological specifications, commercial information and test methods. (Published August 14, 2003)
NOM-169-SCFI-2007	Chiapas coffee - Specifications and test methods. (Published March 26, 2002).
NOM-173-SCFI-2009	Pre-packaged fruit juices - Denomination, physicochemical specifications, commercial information and test methods. (Published August 28, 2009).

FAS/Mexico Comment: The revised NOM-051 labeling regulations state that pre-packaged food products and non-alcoholic beverages subject to commercial and sanitary information requirements in other specific NOMs will be exempt from compliance with the new labeling regulations. However, it appears that SE is attempting to reinforce this exemption by issuing this decree. This action may also allow SE time to potentially revise the text in the new NOM-051 regulation to ensure this is clearly understood.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

FAS Mexico Web Site: We are available at: <http://www.mexico-usda.com> or visit the FAS headquarters' home page at: <http://www.fas.usda.gov> for a complete selection of FAS worldwide agricultural reporting.

FAS Mexico YouTube Channel: Catch the latest videos of FAS Mexico at work:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/ATOMexicoCity>

Other Relevant Reports Submitted by FAS Mexico:

Report Number	Subject	Date Submitted
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MX1223	Labeling Procedures for Consumer Products in Mexico	12/20/2001
MX9324	Mexico Proposes Labeling Changes for Food and Nonalcoholic Beverages	8/6/2009
MX9325	FAIRS Country Report 2009	8/20/2009
MX9331	Mexico Proposes New Labeling Requirement for Non-Alcoholic Beverages	10/28/2009
MX0505	Mexico Revises Food Labeling Regulations	6/17/2010
MX0312	Update on Revised NOM-051 Labeling Requirements	10/18/2010
MX0318	Additional Changes to Food Labeling Regulations NOM-051	10/29/2010
MX0320	FAIRS Country Report 2010	12/16/2010

Useful Mexican Web Sites: Mexico's equivalent to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at <http://www.sagarpa.gob.mx> and Mexico's equivalent to the U.S. Department of Commerce (SE) can be found at <http://www.economia.gob.mx> These web sites are mentioned for the readers' convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with, the information contained on the mentioned sites.

^[1] Because the new NOM is not yet in effect, the link provided refers to the text published in the Diario Oficial de la Federacion. After January 1, 2011, the document will be available in the Mexican Official Standard Registry at: <http://www.economia-noms.gob.mx/noms/inicio.do>